



**STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT**

# **Brater Press Release**

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## **SEN. BRATER CALLS FOR MI GREEN COMMUNITY FUND-- Will Curb Trash Imports And Provide \$100m To Benefit Recycling And Other Local Efforts**

**LANSING** -- Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) today introduced legislation to create a \$6 per ton surcharge for all waste disposal in Michigan landfills. The surcharge will raise about \$100 million per year, which will be returned to municipalities to encourage recycling programs and fund other environmental and local needs. Currently, Michigan ranks as the third highest importer of solid waste in the nation and among the lowest in recycling rate.

“This fee will bring Michigan in line with landfill costs in other states and make Michigan landfills less of a magnet to out-of-state waste, while encouraging recycling efforts,” Sen. Brater said.

Currently, some 32 percent of the municipal waste in Michigan landfills comes from outside of Michigan. Recent studies indicate that solid waste imports – primarily from Canada – increased by approximately 2.5 million cubic yards between FY2003 and FY2004, enough to bury a football field more than 1,000 feet deep. The report also showed Michigan with the lowest recycling rate in the Great Lakes region, recycling only 20 percent of its waste.

The legislation guarantees that revenues generated from the surcharge be placed in the Michigan Green Communities Fund, with 90 percent going to cities, villages and townships for recycling, environmental and other local public health and safety programs. The remaining fees would provide support for counties to develop countywide solid waste plans, fund DEQ landfill inspections and cover administrative costs. Twenty-three other states have established similar funds.

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